

New World Mining District Response and Restoration Project

**Community Relations Plan
(Final)**

November 1999

NEW WORLD MINING DISTRICT RESPONSE AND RESTORATION PROJECT

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

A. OVERVIEW OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

The New World Mining District (District), which includes a mixture of National Forest Service and private lands, is a historic metals mining district located in the general vicinity of Cooke City, Montana in the Beartooth Mountains. This historic mining district, which is centered about four miles northeast of the northeast gate to Yellowstone National Park, contains hard rock mining wastes and acid discharges that impact the environment. Human health and environmental issues are related to elevated levels of heavy metals present in mine waste piles, open pits, acidic water discharging from mine openings, and stream sediments.

On August 12, 1996, the United States signed a Settlement Agreement (Agreement) with Crown Butte Mining, Inc. (CBMI) to purchase CBMI's interest in their District holdings. The resulting transfer of property to the U.S. government effectively ended CBMI's proposed mine development plans and provided \$22.5 million to cleanup historic mining impacts to specific properties in the District. In June 1998, a Consent Decree (Decree) was signed by all interested parties and CBMI, and approved by the United States District Court, that finalized the terms of the Agreement and made available the funds that will be used for mine cleanup.

This Community Relations Plan (CRP) was prepared to ensure appropriate opportunities are provided for citizens and groups to learn about the proposed New World Mining District response and restoration actions, to provide input for selecting those cleanup actions, and to remain well informed about the progress of those actions. The actions will be in accordance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) and, as such, the public involvement process for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) actions is not required.

This Plan describes the history and existing condition of the project site and identifies the methods for involving the public, as well as other agencies, community officials, and legislators. It also includes background information about the New World Mining District for interested parties who wish to become more informed about the area.

In general, community interest in the project is extremely high. This is a direct result of community concerns and close involvement in the environmental review and permitting process for CBMI's former New World Mine Project. e.

The following are the guidance and objectives for public involvement in this project which can be found in the 1996 Agreement (Appendix C. pp. 17-18):

1. The "Work," including the precise scope and schedule for implementation, shall be determined by the United States (including all appropriate federal agencies) with appropriate involvement by the State of Montana, and after appropriate public participation, including consultation with the GYC [Greater Yellowstone Coalition] and Crown Butte Mines, Inc.
2. The Engineering Evaluation and Cost Analysis (EE/CA) approach as described in the Guidance on Conducting Non-Time-Critical Removal Actions Under CERCLA, Pub. 9360.0-32 (Aug. 1993) provides the appropriate model for the assessment, scoping, selection and implementation of cleanup actions on or related to the District Property. The choice of the EE/CA model should minimize the time needed for selection, design, and implementation of needed response actions and to maximize the cost effectiveness of such actions. The precise nature and scope of actions to be implemented will be determined only after acquisition and evaluation of information deemed necessary by the United States.
3. Submittals of work plans, sampling plans, and EE/CA shall also be subject to review and comment by affected persons. Generally a 30-day comment period will be established for these documents and comments will be compiled by the USDA Forest Service. All comments will be considered and pertinent comments will be incorporated into the final documents. For the EE/CA, a separate response to significant comments will be prepared if necessary.

B. CAPSULE SITE DESCRIPTION

This project is located in Park County, Montana, near Cooke City. The general legal description is: T8S, R14 and 15E; and T9S, R14 and 15E; PM MT. A vicinity map is attached as Attachment C.

Specific response/restoration actions have not been fully developed yet. The project would consist of a series of "operable units" involving one or more logically combined response and/or restoration actions. An operable unit is defined under EPA guidance as a discrete action that comprises an incremental step toward a final remedy. OU boundaries may be drawn along geographic lines, such as mine wastes in the Fisher Creek drainage, or may be defined by environmental media actions, such as solid mine wastes or acid mine discharges. Each response/restoration action will likely have an individual EE/CA prepared for it. These actions will be guided by the overall scope and objectives stated below. The scope of the project is described in the June 25, 1998, Consent Decree and Settlement Agreement (pp. 12-13, paragraph VII.7(a). The project (the "Work") will address:

1. Releases or threats of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants that are related to the District Property;
2. Natural resources lost as a result of, or injured or destroyed by, releases or threats of release of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants that are released to the District Property; and
3. Conditions affecting water quality and natural resources in Miller, Fisher, and Daisy Creeks and their tributaries.

Objectives of the project are to:

- a. Comply with site applicable or relevant and appropriate requirements (ARARs) to the extent practicable;
- b. Achieve the highest and best water quality practicably attainable, considering the natural geology, hydrology, upstream mining impacts and natural background conditions;
- c. Prevent humans, wildlife and aquatic biota using the area from being exposed to the high concentrations of metals in the waste rock and tailings materials;
- d. Prevent potential exposure through the food chain to metal contaminants from these discharges, waste rock and tailings materials to the extent practicable;
- e. Prevent soluble metal contaminants or metals contaminated solid materials in the waste rock and tailings materials/sediments from migrating into adjacent surface waters to the extent practicable;
- f. Reduce or eliminate concentrated runoff and discharges that generate sediment and/or metals contamination to adjacent surface waters and ground water to the extent practicable;
- g. Reduce or eliminate safety hazards associated with open shafts, pits, trenches, and adits;
- h. Prevent or limit future releases and mitigate the environmental effect of past releases of hazardous substances, pollutants or contaminants;
- i. Restore (i.e. bring back to a near-natural condition) injured natural resources to the extent practicable;
- j. Take into consideration the desirability of preserving the existing undeveloped character of the District and surrounding area when selecting response and restoration actions; and
- k. Identify, prioritize, and select response and restoration actions based on a comprehensive source assessment and streamlined risk analysis of the District.

C. COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

Community Profile

Because of the project's location adjacent to Yellowstone National Park and the recent public participation in the New World Mine permitting process (under NEPA), the "community" of interests for this project ranges from the local residents regional populations to international citizens and organizations.

- a. Local: The relatively isolated, rural communities of Cooke City and Silver Gate, Montana, would be directly affected by this project. Cooke City is the larger of these two unincorporated towns. The area's economy is heavily based upon outdoor recreation and tourism. The area population can be separated into three segments, permanent residents, seasonal residents, and

tourists. Seasonal residents generally come to the area in summer months for vacation and retirement reasons. The permanent population segment is generally composed of people who have moved to the area because they value its natural resource amenities and now depend on the area for a living. Their livelihoods are dependent primarily on the area's outdoor recreation and tourism. Tourists are transient to the area, but they may have a special interest in response and restoration activities in the District because of the importance to them of maintaining a high quality environment.

- b. **Regional:** The project is located within the Greater Yellowstone Area (GYA). This area consists of primarily federally owned lands (national forests and national parks) surrounding Yellowstone National Park with the Park being the central focus. Because of this location and significant resources affected by the historic mining activity, the project is of high interest to a broader community. Residents of Gardiner, Livingston, Red Lodge, Bridger, Bozeman, West Yellowstone, and Billings, Montana; and Cody, Jackson Hole, and Powell, Wyoming, have been highly interested and involved in activities in the project area. Also, the county commissioners from Park, Gallatin, and Madison Counties, Montana, and Park and Teton Counties, Wyoming, would potentially be interested in the project.
- c. **National/International:** Again, because of the significant natural resources involved and the project's location adjacent to Yellowstone National Park, this project is of high interest across the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and also overseas.

Key Community Concerns/Issues

Following are several issues potentially of concern to the community. These will be verified and, if applicable, supplemented with additional issues based on community interviews (See *Section E, Techniques and Timing*).

General: Injured natural resources (water, fisheries, wildlife habitat, soils and vegetation) are of concern to the local community because of its economic dependence on outdoor recreation and tourism. If the area gains a reputation of being "spoiled" or polluted, this may drive away business.

Water Quality: Some domestic wells are at risk of contamination from historic mining activity. The area's streams flow through designated wilderness or through Yellowstone National Park. These are nationally significant waters which have strict water quality standards.

Efficient Use of Funds: An issue expressed by the public has been that the limited funds (\$22.5 million set by the Agreement) are used as efficiently as possible to address the most serious problems first. These problems will be identified during the assessment phase of the project according to a scoring system modified for abandoned mine lands by the Montana Department of Environmental Quality.

Cultural Resources: There is strong interest in preserving cultural sites of historic interest and value to the community and visitors to the area.

Preservation of Undeveloped Character of Area: The community is interested in selecting Work which takes into consideration the desirability of preserving the existing undeveloped character of the District and the surrounding area.

D. COMMUNITY RELATIONS STRATEGY

Key objectives of public involvement are to:

- Share information from the agencies and
- Obtain timely input from the public regarding proposed project actions.
- Consider information and input from the public, among other things, for the basis of decisions made regarding proposed project actions.

Community relations will be conducted through several mechanisms, based on the target interest group and their demographics. These techniques include news releases, personal contacts, briefings, open house(s), an Internet web site, and mailed scoping statements with attached comment sheets. Information repositories will be housed at sites reasonably available to the majority of local and key regional populations. The Internet site will help serve more remotely located interested parties.

E. TECHNIQUES AND TIMING

Techniques that will be used to actively involve the community in project activities and decisions can be divided into actions and resources. These are described below. As with the key issues, techniques and scheduling will be validated or supplemented based on results of community interviews. The timing of the actions described below is shown in Table 1.

Community Resource Actions

Community Interviews. Conduct interviews with local officials, community leaders, representatives of citizens groups, residents, and other interested citizens. The purpose is to seek information about public concerns/issues and how the community wants to be kept informed and involved in the project.

EE/CA and Preferred Response Action Alternative Notification and Analysis. A notice of the availability of each EE/CA, including a brief summary of the preferred response action alternative, will be published in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Livingston Enterprise, Billings Gazette, Cody Enterprise, and Powell Tribune.

Public Comment Period on Draft EE/CA and Preferred Response Action Alternative. A minimum 30-day public review and comment period will be held to allow citizens to express their opinions on the agencies' preferred alternative for each EE/CA drafted.

Response to Significant Comments. Prepare a response to significant written or oral comments submitted during the public comment period on the draft EE/CA and preferred response action alternative. The Action Memorandum and Response to Significant Comments will be available for public inspection and copying at the information repositories prior to the commencement of the removal action. A notice of the availability of the Action Memorandum and Response to Significant

Comments will be published in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Livingston Enterprise, Billings Gazette, Cody Enterprise, and Powell Tribune.

Public Meetings: A public meeting held during the public comment period will provide an opportunity for the agencies to answer questions directly and to discuss the preferred response action alternative during the public comment period. Also, public meetings may be held to present progress reports. These meetings may be held in Gardiner, Livingston, Bozeman, or Cooke City/Silver Gate. A public meeting will be held during the 30-day comment period.

Mailings: Establish a mailing list to ensure key information is sent to specific individuals, organizations, and agencies. Although new communications technology such as the Internet (see below) and E-mail will be used for sharing information, traditional hard copy mailings will also be needed. Information distributed through these means may include such documents as project status reports or updates, fact sheets, and invitations to review and comment on project plans.

Revision of the Community Relations Plan. The CRP will be reviewed and revised, if necessary, based on results of the community interviews. It will also be reviewed annually during the annual work planning period (October through December of each year of the project) to determine if additional revisions are needed to meet the public's and agency needs.

Briefings: Briefings for agencies, other trustees, and elected officials; quarterly reports to Congress. Meetings with local officials should include FS, EPA, DOI, National Park Service, and MDEQ officials and should be held at the following technical milestones:

- Completion of the final work plan(s);
- Completion of the draft EE/CA report(s); and
- Before response/removal/reclamation action starts.

Conduct informal meetings with residents: A meeting with residents is advisable before commencing any on-site activities involving use of earth-moving equipment or other heavy machinery. The meeting should include interested citizens, the Project Manager, the Community Involvement Coordinator, and technical and community relations staff assistance as necessary. Keep in mind that many of the area residents are only summer residents. So, extra effort will need to be made to involve these folks.

Provide news releases to local media: Prepared statements might be released to local papers (see Attachment A, Table H. Media) and to local radio and television stations to notify the community of any public meetings. Additional news releases are advisable at the following milestones:

- When the draft EE/CA reports are completed; and
- Before response/removal/reclamation actions start.

Addresses and phone numbers of local newspapers are included in Attachment A.

Community Resources

Information Repositories/Administrative Record and Notification. Fact sheets, technical summaries, site reports, (including the Community Relations Plan), background documents (e.g., Agreement, Consent Decree), and information on the EE/CA (CERCLA) process will be placed in the information repositories. These repositories are initially proposed to be located in Gardiner and Bozeman. An information repository may eventually be established in Cooke City. The administrative record will be made available for public inspection at the Gallatin National Forest Supervisor's Office in Bozeman. This file will contain information that forms the basis for the selection of a response action, including verified sampling/monitoring data, quality control and quality assurance documentation, and site inspection and evaluation reports. It will also contain the preferred response action alternative, as well as the Action Memorandum and supporting information. A notice of the availability of the administrative record will be published in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Livingston Enterprise, Cody Enterprise, and Powell Tribune.

Information Contact: A technical or community relations staff person will be designated to respond directly to public inquiries regarding site activities. This person should coordinate with EPA and USDA Community Relations staff in contacts with the media.

Internet Web Site: Background information (Agreement, Community Relations Plan, EE/CA process outline, etc.), technical briefing papers, summaries of proposed actions, progress reports, and scheduled public involvement events may be available via Internet, most likely through the Gallatin National Forest Home Page (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/gallatin/>). A link to the EPA's web site would provide access to the CERCLA regulations and other guidelines.

Prepare fact sheets and technical summaries: One fact sheet might be released as soon as possible to inform area residents and other interested citizens about the proposed site plans, background, and EE/CA process. Another fact sheet (including a technical summary) might be prepared to explain the findings of the site investigations and to outline each of the remedial alternatives being considered for the New World Mining District. A detailed description of the agencies' preferred response alternative(s) should also be provided. In addition, each fact sheet should list the location of information repositories where information is available for public review.

Table 1. Initial community relations activities.

Event/Task	Timing
Public meeting (open house) - Gardiner	4/6/99
Community interviews	4/99
CRP reviewed/revised as necessary, based on interviews.	After interviews
Internet web page developed and on line	4/1/99
Briefings:	
Congressional delegation	4/99
County Commissioners	4/9
Information repositories established for administrative record	4/99
News release	When draft EE/CAs are completed
Public review and comment on draft EE/CA (30 days)	Unknown
Public meeting - EE/CA	During 30-day comment period
Prepare Response to Significant Issues	After 30-day comment period
News release	Before response actions start

ATTACHMENT A

LIST OF CONTACTS AND INTERESTED PARTIES

A. Federal Agencies

Agency	Name/Position	Address	Phone
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture	Terry Harwood USDA-Project Coordinator	Washington D.C.	202-401-4747
Forest Service Northern Region	Bob Kirkpatrick On-Scene Coordinator	Federal Building 200 East Broadway P.O. Box 7669 Missoula, MT 59807	406-329-3307
Forest Service Gallatin National Forest	Sherm Sollid Forest Coordinator	Gallatin National Forest P.O. Box 130 Bozeman, MT 59771	406-587-6709
Environmental Protection Agency	Jim Harris EPA Project Coordinator	301 S. Park Drawer 10096 Helena, MT 59626	406-441-1150 ext. 260
Environmental Protection Agency	Pam Hillary Community Involvement Coordinator	301 S. Park Drawer 10096 Helena, MT 59626	406-441-1150 ext. 246
U.S. Dept. of the Interior	Bill Olsen DOI Project Coordinator	100 N. Park, Suite 320 Helena, MT 59601	406-449-5225 ext. 214
U.S. Dept of the Interior	Mary Hektner Yellowstone National Park	P.O. Box 168 Yellowstone National Park, WY 82190	307-344-2151

B. State and Local Agencies

Agency	Name	Address	Phone
MT Dept. of Environmental Quality Mine Waste Cleanup Bureau	John Koerth MT DEQ Project Coordinator	P.O. Box 200901 Helena, MT 59620	406-444-4956

C. Federal Elected Officials (field offices)

Name	Address	Phone
Senator Max Baucus (Alicia Bradshaw)	P.O. Box 1689 Bozeman, MT 59771	406-586-6104 Fax: 587-9177
Senator Conrad Burns (Mike Harris)	211 Haggerty Lane Bozeman, MT 59715	406-586-4450 Fax: 586-7647
Representative Rick Hill (Peggy Trenk)	33 South Last Chance Gulch Helena, MT 59601	406-443-7878 Fax: 449-3736

D. State Elected Officials

Name	Address
Senator Lorents Grosfield	P.O. Box 1 Big Timber, MT 59011
Senator Bob Raney	212 South 6th Street Livingston, MT 59047
Representative Shiell Anderson	738 Highway 89 North Livingston, MT 59047

E. Local Officials

	Name	Address	Phone
County Commissioners Park County, MT	Dan Gutebier Terry Sarrazin Jim Hunt	414 E. Callender Livingston, MT 59047	406-222-4106 Fax: 222-4199
County Commissioners Park County, WY	Charlie Johnstone Tim Morrison Tim Wade	1002 Sheridan Avenue Cody, WY 82414	307-527-8500

F. Tribes

Name	Address
Burton Pretty on Top Crow Tribal Cultural Committee	P.O. Box 159 Crow Agency, MT 59022
Shoshone Business Council	P.O. Box 538 Ft. Washakie, WY 82514
Shoshone-Bannock Tribe	Fort Hall Indian Reservation P.O. Box 306 Fort Hall, ID 83203
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes	P.O. Box 278 Pablo, MT 59855

G. Community Organizations, Environmental Groups, and Citizens' Groups

Organization	Name	Address	Phone
Beartooth Alliance	Mike Whittington - Home - Cooke City Office	2450 Brook Hollow Drive Billings, MT 59101 P.O. Box 1141 Cooke City, MT 59020	406-254-9447
Greater Yellowstone Coalition	Michael Scott, Don Bachman	P.O. Box 1874 Bozeman, MT 59771	406-586-1593
Northern Plains Resource Council	Richard Parks Aaron Browning	P.O. Box 448 Gardiner, MT 59030 2401 Montana Ave. #200 Billings, MT 59101	406-848-7314 406-248-1154
Sierra Club	Jim Curtis		406-543-3644
Gallatin Wildlife Association	Joe Gutkowski	304 North 18th Avenue Bozeman, MT 59715	406-587-3242

H. Media

Organization	Name	Address	Phone
Newspapers: Bozeman Daily Chronicle	Parker Heinlein (outdoor editor) Scott McMillion Heidi Hagemier	P.O. Box 1188 Bozeman, MT 59715	406-587-4491 Fax: 587-7995 406-222-3235 406-582-2635
Billings Gazette	Joe Kolman	P.O. Box 926 Bozeman, MT 59771	406-587-9266 Fax: 587-1293
Billings Gazette - Regional Desk		P.O. Box 36300 Billings, MT 59107	800-543-2505 Fax: 657-1208
Livingston Enterprise		P.O. Box 665 Livingston, MT 59047	406-222-2000 Fax: 222-8580
Cody Enterprise	Mark Bagne?		307-587-2231
Powell Tribune	Judy Tipton?		307-754-2221
Carbon County News		P.O. Box 970 Red Lodge, MT 59068	406-446-2222 Fax: 446-2225

H. Media (continued)

Organization	Name	Address	Phone
Radio Stations: KZLO (FOXX)		P.O. Box 519 Bozeman, MT 59771	406-587-9999 Fax: 587-5855
KBOZ & KOBZ & KPBX		P.O. Box 20 Bozeman, MT 59771	406-586-1090 Fax: 587-5855
KGLT		Box 325 Starnd Union Bldg Montana State University Bozeman, MT 59717	406-994-3001
KMMS & KSKY	Art Carlson	125 West Mendenhall Bozeman, MT 59715	406-586-2343
KPRK		P.O. Box 691 Livingston, MT 59047	406-222-2841 Fax: 222-1341
KBLG & KYVA		2075 Central Avenue Billings, MT 59102	406-652-8400 Fax: 652-4899
KEMC & KBMC (public radio)		1500 North 30th Billings, MT 59101	406-657-2987 Fax: 657-2977
KIDX & KGHL		2070 Overland Station, #103 Billings, MT 59102	406-656-1410 Fax: 656-0110
KURL		P.O. Box 31038 Billings, MT 59107	406-245-3121
KCTR & KZLS		P.O. Box 1276 Billings, MT 59103	406-248-7827 Fax: 252-9577

ATTACHMENT B

LOCATIONS FOR INFORMATION REPOSITORY AND PUBLIC MEETINGS

Information Repositories:

Location	Phone	Hours
Gardiner Ranger District U.S. Highway 89 P.O. Box 5 Gardiner, MT 59030	(406) 848-7375	Mon-Fri: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Cooke City Chamber of Commerce Main Street P.O. Box 1071 Cooke City, MT 59020	(406) 838-2495	Seasonally adjusted (please call before visiting)
Gallatin National Forest 10 East Babcock Ave. P.O. Box 130, Federal Building Bozeman, MT 59771	(406) 587-6701	Mon-Fri: 7:45 AM to 4:45 PM

ATTACHMENT C
PROJECT AREA MAP